Conservation of sacred groves in Karnataka

1829. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government seeking financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 lakhs for conservation of sacred groves (Devarakadu) in Kodagu District of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the proposal; and

(c) by when financial assistance is likely to be sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been requested to submit a revised proposal, along with adequate justification.

Environment Courts

1830. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Law Commission has recommended the setting up of "Environment Courts" in all States aimed at decentralizing environmental issues for speedy action; and

(b) if so, the details of the other related major recommendations made by the Law Commission recently and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission, in it's 186th Report, has *inter alia* recommended establishment of separate 'Envionrment Courts' in each State, consisting of judicial and scientific experts in the field of environment, for dealing with environmental disputes besides having appellate jurisdiction in respect of appeals under the various Pollution